

DISCLOSURE DIVISION

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- ☐ WAIVER REQUEST
☒ ANSWER
☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST
☐ UNTIMELY

DATE: 12/11/2020

DOCKET #: 2020-889

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division

[Signature]

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Mr. Gordon M. Propst
Address: 5839 Kingsbury Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70607
Office/Position: Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority
Dates of Service: 2014-2018 (2018 Final Year)
Number of Disclosures and/or Amendments Filed with Agency: 5

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2018 - Amendment
Report ID: PFD20000819
Original Due Date: 5/15/2019
Initial PFD Filed on: 1/27/2020
NOD-amend Received: 11/19/2020
Amendment/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 12/2/2020
Amendment/Answer Filed: 11/30/2020

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$
Days late from receipt of NOD:
Total days late from initial due date:
Late Fee Order Received:
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date:
Waiver Request Received:

COMMENTS:

Gordon Propst is submitting an Answer "Contesting Allegations". Mr. Propst stated the Robinswood School (Multi-Care Inc.) is a private company, which was his employer in 2018. He stated he never owned any business interest or stock in that corporation. Therefore, is not require to disclose that income.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

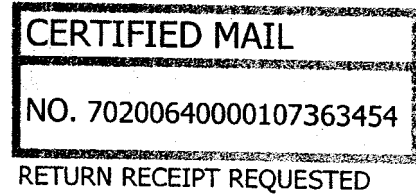
- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No

Robinswood School is a facility
in Lake Charles for individuals
w/ intellectual and/or developmental
disabilities
- It is regulated by LDH
- see News article



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

Rec'd 11/19/2020



November 13, 2020

Gordon M. Propst
5839 Kingsbury Lane
Lake Charles, LA 70607

RE: NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY - AMEND
PFD20000819

Dear Mr. Propst:

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4, if a person fails to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement as required by 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1, or 1124.3; omits information; or files inaccurately, a Notice of Delinquency shall be issued. A review of your Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2018 that was filed with this office on January 27, 2020, indicates the following error(s) or omission(s):

You are required to disclose income received (during calendar year 2018) from the Robinswood School on SCHEDULE E.

You have 7 business days from the date of receipt of this Notice to file an amendment to your Statement, or to submit a written Answer contesting the allegations. **Failure to file** within the 7 days will subject you to an automatic late fee of \$50 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500. Proof of timely filing is determined by the U.S. Postal Service postmark; receipt from the U.S. Postal Service; or receipt from a commercial delivery service.

If you would like to view the report that was initially filed to further explain the omission and/or correction needed, you may visit our website at www.ethics.la.gov. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 225/219-5600 or 800/842-6630.

Sincerely,

Tammy Frazier
Compliance Investigator

→ 11/23/2020 ANSWER CONTESTING ALLEGATION:
ROBINSWOOD SCHOOL (MULTI-CARE INC.) IS
A PRIVATE COMPANY WHICH WAS MY EMPLOYER IN
2018. I NEVER OWNED ANY INTEREST OR
ANY STOCK IN THIS CORPORATION. (0%).
Gordon M. Propst

https://www.americanpress.com/news/local/robinswood-school-remains-under-investigation/article_b4c91ebe-6950-11e9-8bc3-775037d1b0c4.html

TOP STORY

Robinswood School remains under investigation

Facility still not in compliance with federal, state requirements

Lisa Addison

Apr 28, 2019



Robinswood School is located at 200 Ave. C in Lake Charles.

Donna Price

Robinswood School, a facility in Lake Charles for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, remains under investigation by the Louisiana Department of Health and is still not in compliance with federal and state requirements for nursing homes participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.

A 55-page document the state recently provided to the American Press, following a public records request, details violations at the facility regarding smoking regulations, the recent death of a resident and a situation in which a resident had sex with three other residents at Robinswood.

In a letter to Gordon Propst, administrator of Robinswood School, the state said a life safety code survey was conducted at the facility in February, and the state determined the facility was out of compliance.

"This office has determined that your facility's failure to comply with this rule constitutes a Class 'B' violation pursuant to a final rule published by this Department in November of 2013, in that the above referenced facility's actions or inactions created the substantial probability that serious harm or death would result to a resident or residents if the situation was not corrected," the letter stated. "Further, this facility has been previously cited for a Class 'B' violation that occurred within 18 months of this violation."

Robinswood School, as a result of the deficiency, was fined \$2,500.

Robert Johannessen, communications director for the Louisiana Department of Health, said, "The facility is considered in compliance only after LDH approves an acceptable plan of correction from the facility and then conducts a follow-up investigation or administrative review to ensure the plan of correction is being implemented and that no new deficiencies are cited."

In its report, the state said an interview was conducted with an administrator at Robinswood on Feb. 18, 2019, and the administrator "stated there was no written policy related to smoking." The administrator told a surveyor that residents have always been allowed to smoke since the facility opened. He stated they could smoke outside and in the general shower/bathrooms.

When asked if the facility had updated any of its smoking policies since the 1980s, the administrator told the surveyor that some had been updated since then but some had not. The administrator told surveyors the policies were not kept in a specific binder but just "here and there. No one wanted to read an entire policy and procedure manual."

The report stated "clients were discarding unextinguished cigarette butts in trash cans with plastic liners filled with paper waste products and on the floor of the bathroom."

The state said the deficient practice had the potential to affect all 114 clients who were residing in the facility at that time.

A plan of correction was enacted by Robinswood School. Although some changes have been made, the facility administrator first said the survey was conducted in a very professional manner, but then added negative comments.

The administrator had a complaint about a particular person, saying, "The person who filed the complaints and then sat in with the surveyors for the entire week, was not professional." Additionally, he said a person who accompanied that person "was openly carrying a pistol and expressed surprise that this might be dangerous, because psychiatric clients could possibly grab the pistol. He had not been given any orientation as to the type of facility he was entering."

The administrator listed various ways in which he believed the state could better do its job instead of focusing more on what Robinswood could be doing to correct its deficiencies.

In its plan of correction, the facility listed several ways it was working to attain compliance in the areas of smoking deficiencies, including providing designated smoking areas, receptacles to contain cigarette butts and safety training for all staff.

In another incident, a person identified as Client No. 1, a 58-year-old woman who had originally been admitted to the facility Jan. 9, 2001, died at Robinswood Dec. 5, 2018. The report did not state why she had been away from the facility or hospitalized but said "she was returned to Robinswood per facility transport on Dec. 3, 2018." It stated she had a compression fracture, was resting quietly in bed, and respirations were even and unlabored.

While a nurse and administrator were making rounds, they noticed Client No. 1 was checked for responsiveness and was “not responding. Skin warm and dry to touch. No pulse was found. CPR was started and continued until EMTs arrived at approximately 10 minutes longer with no response.”

According to staff members of the facility, the deceased was seen alive 20 minutes prior to her discovery when staff members performed a check. A staff member returned to check on her and discovered her not breathing.

The state said an interview was conducted with a staff member who stated they were supposed to watch the client one-on-one, but when they were short on staff, they wouldn't be able to do so. She said the facility had been having problems with keeping enough staff “due to lack of funding.”

Another incident was detailed by the state in which a person identified as Client No. 2 said she had sex with four male clients, identified as Client No. 9, Client R12, Client R27 and an unidentified person she could not recall the name of when interviewed. Client No. 2 stated she was in the lobby of the facility when the men “kept bugging her” to go to a particular room. She eventually did, and that's where the sexual activity occurred.

The state said in its report that none of the residents affected had been tested for sexually transmitted diseases after the incident, and that Client No. 2 had not seen a gynecologist after the incident. Additionally, Client No. 2's primary physician and her psychiatrist were not notified.

A previous story by the American Press detailed issues concerning a female resident who was allegedly sexually assaulted by an employee of the facility — a direct care aide — who has since been fired and was later arrested on a charge of first-degree rape.

Willie Stevens, 51, was arrested at his home Oct. 1, 2018, and booked into the Calcasieu Correctional Center on a bond of \$100,000.

Stevens, who was indicted by a grand jury in November of 2018 in state district court, remains incarcerated.

According to the indictment, Stevens is accused of having sex with the resident who had suffered a "traumatic brain injury that left her with profound developmental disabilities." The woman has a behavioral age of 5 years, 5 months. The alleged incident took place in late 2017.

Three Robinswood officials — Propst, 72, school administrator; Thomas A. Leonards, 64, assistant administrator and safety director; and Jeanette Thevis, 68, social services coordinator — are each charged with one count of accessory-after-the-fact to first-degree rape, obstruction of justice and failure of duty to report.

Todd S. Clemons and Adam Johnson are representing the three Robinswood employees, and Clemons has said all three "strongly maintain their innocence."

"Our clients have been falsely accused, and we will zealously defend them," Clemons said.

The female resident, identified as Client No. 3 in a 152-page report from the state, was found to have a sexually transmitted disease during a physical examination after the incident was reported to staff of the facility.

According to the report, Robinswood failed to meet certain Medicare and/or Medicaid program standards.

Among the more serious issues were the facility did not seek immediate health care for Client No. 3; law enforcement was not immediately notified; and the alleged sexual abuser continued working at the facility for an entire month after the alleged sexual abuse was reported.

The state office was first notified on Jan. 23, 2018, via fax, which was not the current state reporting system for abuse and neglect. The sheriff's office was contacted for the first time on Jan. 23, 2018, related to the alleged incident. And, the parent and curatrix for Client No. 3 was not notified promptly of the alleged sexual abuse.

Stevens' time card report revealed he worked Dec. 16, 2017, on the 10 p.m.-6 a.m. shift at the facility on the same day that the allegation was reported, and continued to work multiple other days until Jan. 16, 2018.

In its response, Robinswood officials replied, "To put the allegations of Client No. 3 in perspective: This client has a diagnoses of psychosis, impulse control disorder, traumatic brain injury and depression. This client has a long history of making false allegations — including in her prior placements; thus, the interdisciplinary team has adopted goals and objectives concerning making false accusations as a priority part of her program plan."

Continuing, Robinswood said it agreed that its failure to immediately take all appropriate actions following receipt of the allegations of Client No. 3 required corrective action. Accordingly, it said, "Facility (Robinswood) has instituted immediate corrections and removed the immediate jeopardy situation found to exist."

Lisa Addison

Crime and Courts Reporter